

exchange of drought information for most of the southeast (except for SC and FL, which are outside TVA territory).

The NC Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) has a technical subcommittee that has a weekly conference call every Tuesday to assess current drought conditions in the state. Participants usually include a wide range of experts from various locations around the state. The primary purpose of these calls is to provide North Carolina's input into the national Drought Monitoring map that comes out every Thursday. NC has become a leader in its approach to providing state input into this national drought management product.

As part of North Carolina's Emergency Response Plan, the Water Resources Task Force was activated in 2007. This task force has a weekly call to review the status of the water supplies across the state. The task force's work made a valuable contribution to helping define the impacts associated with drought. However, a great deal of work remains to be done to bring North Carolina's emergency management network into coordination with its water resource monitoring systems.

Weekly calls by regional engineers from Division of Environmental Health (DEH) in DENR were appreciated by water systems. Weekly calls and information sharing increased awareness of the value of river basin-based planning, modeling, budgeting, and managing. Good leadership by DENR, the Corps, Duke Energy, and water systems fostered a "we're in this together" spirit as opposed to an "I've got mine" mentality and avoided major conflicts.

DMAC performed its primary mission well: sharing technical information collected by state and federal agencies about the

drought. It provided useful information to water systems and managers about the severity of the drought. Some systems heeded its warnings, and some did not. Communication between DMAC and water systems works well. However, communication between DMAC and policy makers, including the Governor's Office, city and county managers, and local elected officials, needs improvement. DMAC provides good information to water managers, but usually it is city managers, county managers, and local elected officials who enact drought response measures.

Governor Mike Easley appealed to local governments and citizens to reduce water use in the late summer and fall of 2007. Local governments and the public responded and conserved water. The information on which public water systems conserved and how much they conserved can be found at the [Division of Water Resources' website](#).

Private water companies serve approximately 400,000 people in North Carolina. The North Carolina Utilities Commission ordered private water companies to restrict water uses during the drought. Restrictions set by local government and by the Utilities Commission order can be different and can be imposed and relaxed at different times, despite the fact that communities served by a private water company and by a municipality can be literally across the street from one another, facing the same level of drought. There are some nonprofit water companies that appear to escape water conservation regulatory requirements altogether.

Communities with year-round water conservation programs, conservation pricing